(c) the funds earmarked for repair of National Highway No.5 in 1996-97;

(d) whether any proposals have been submitted by Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (e) Central Government has been allocating the funds as a whole to the State and not National Highway-wise. A Sum of Rs. 2842.89 lakhs and Rs. 2825.34 lakhs has been allocated so far to the State of Andhra Pradesh for the year 1995-96, and 1996-97 respectively.

Taking-over of Kabul by Taliban Militia

509. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the take-over of Kabul by Taliban militia;

(b) if so, whether such action will have an impact on India's interests in Afghanistan; and

(c) if so, the measures Government have taken/propose to take to safeguard Indian interests?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Government have noted the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban militia. Subsequent developments and action in Kabul and in other parts of Afghanistan under Taliban control have raised concerns of their possible effect on Indian interests.

(c) Government remain vigilant to anticipate and counteract any measures directed against the country's interest.

Head post office in Sahibganj in Bihar

510. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for opening a Head Post Office at Sahibganj is pending with Government since 1993;

(b) whether a survey in this regard has also been conducted and survey report submitted to Government in 1993 itself;

(c) whether all the requisite information for opening the Head Post Office at Sahibganj has already been furnished by the Assistant Superintendent, Dumka; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government on the proposal for opening the Head Post Office at Sahibganj and when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (d) On receipt of representation from the public representatives regarding upgradation of Sahibganj Post Office to Head Post Office, a report was called for from Bihar Circle in 1993. On the basis of the Said report, it has been found that there is no justification for upgradation of Sahibganj PO to HPO as per departmental norms.

Irrigation Projects in Rajasthan

511. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the on-going irrigation projects including the modernisation of irrigation system, particularly the drip system in Rajasthan; and

(b) the details of achievements during 1995-96 and 1996-97 so far?

THE MINISTER WATER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The details of ongoing major, Medium, and Extension/Renovation/Modernisation Projects of Rajasthan are given in the enclosed statement *(see below)*. The details of drip irrigation are not maintained at the Centre.